58.

His MAJESTIES

MOST

GRACIOUS SPEECH

To both Houſes of

PARLIAMENT,

On *Friday* the 22*th*. of May, 1685.

Publiſhed by His Majeſties Command.

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HIS MAJESTIES MOST GRACIOUS SPEECH

To Both Houſes of

PARLIAMENT,

On Friday the 22th. of May, 1685.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

AFter it pleaſed Almighty God to take to his Mercy the late KING, my Deareſt Brother, and to bring me to the peaceable Poſſeſſion of the Throne of my Anceſtors, I immediately reſolved to Call a Parliament, as the beſt means to ſettle every thing upon

on thoſe foundations that may make my Reign both eaſy and happy to you, towards which I am diſpoſed to contribute all that is fit for me to do. What I ſaid to my Privy-Council at my firſt Coming there, I am deſirous to renew to you; wherein I fully declared my Opinion concerning the Principles of the Church of England, whoſe Members have ſhewed Themſelves ſo eminently Loyal in the worſt of Times, in defence of my Father, and ſupport of my Brother, of bleſſed memory, that I will always take Care to defend and ſupport it; I will make it my endeavour to preſerve this

Govern-

Government both in Church and State, as it is now by Law Eſtabliſhed; And as I will never depart from the juſt Rights and Prerogative of the Crown, ſo I will never Invade any mans Property; And you may be ſure, That having heretofore ventured my Life in the Defence of this Nation, I ſhall ſtill go as far as any man in preſerving it in all its juſt Rights and Liberties. And having given you this aſſurance concerning the Care I will have of your Religion and Property, which I have choſen to do in the ſame words I uſed at my firſt coming to the Crown, the better to evidence to you, that I ſpoke them not by chance; and conſequently, that you may the more firmly rely upon a promiſe ſo ſolemnly made, I cannot doubt that I ſhall fail of ſuitable Returns from you, with all imaginable Duty and Kindneſs on your part, and particularly, in what relates to the ſettling of my Revenue, and continuing it during my Life, as it was in the time of the King my Brother: I might uſe many Arguments to enforce this demand from the benefit of Trade, the ſup-

port of the Navy, The neceſsity of the Crown, and the well-being of the Government it ſelf, which I muſt not ſuffer to be precarious; But I am confident your own conſideration of what is juſt and reaſonable, will ſuggeſt to you whatſoever might be Enlarged upon this occaſion. There is one Popular Argument, which I foreſee may be uſed againſt what I ask of You, from the inclination Men may have for frequent Parliaments, which ſome may Think would be the beſt ſecured, by feeding me from time to time, by ſuch proportions as they ſhall think convenient; And this Argument, it being the firſt time I ſpeak to You from the Throne, I will anſwer once for all: That this would be a very improper method to take with Me; And, that the beſt way to engage Me to meet You often, is always to uſe me well: I expect therefore, that You will comply with Me in what I have deſired, and that You will do it ſpeedily, That this may be a ſhort Seſſion, and That We may meet again to all Our Satisfactions.

My

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Muſt acquaint You that I have had News this Morning from Scotland, that Argile is Landed in the Weſt High-Lands, with the Men he brought with him from Holland, and that there are two Declarations Publiſhed, One in the Name of all thoſe in Arms there, the other in his own. It would be too long for Me to repeat the ſubſtance of them, it is ſufficient to tell You, I am charged with Uſurpation and Tyrannie: The ſhorter of them I have directed to be forthwith communicated to You; I will take the beſt care I can That This Declaration of Their own Treaſon and Rebellion May Meet with The Reward it deſerves, and I will not doubt but That You all will be The More zealous To ſupport The Government, and give Me My Revenue, as I have deſired it, without delay.

FINIS.